



The White Hawk Dancers traded in their feathered costumes for the comfortable kimono while visiting Japan. *Sept. 1995*

The White Hawk Dancers, of Watsonville, accompanied by Yermo and Anai-i Aranda, returned Sept. 2 from a cultural exchange tour at the World Exposition in Wakayama and Shingu, Japan.

The dancers were told by the Exposition manager that they received more response from the audience than any other group in the previous three months.

In Shingu, Santa Cruz's sister city, they were greeted by the mayor and city council. Yermo Aranda said everyone in their group was impressed with the hospitality and generosity of their hosts.

"They are very considerate people," Aranda said. "Cameras and bicycles are left out in the open — no locks — there is hardly any theft."

The dancers toured the ancient ruins of the Shingu Dynasty fortress, enjoyed many traditional dinners, learned to remove their shoes at the door, and went swimming.

A dance group from Shingu will visit Santa Cruz next June in a cultural exchange.

"We made a lot of new friends. It was hard to part," Aranda said.